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9	BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING									
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA									
11										
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 2012 - 5									
13	JULIANE LAURA COLLETT a.k.a. JULIANE LAURA GUERRANT									
14	2050 Southwest Expressway, Apt. 84 San Jose, CA 95126 ACCUSATION									
15	Registered Nurse License No. 623149									
16	Respondent.									
17										
18	Complainant alleges:									
19	<u>PARTIES</u>									
20	1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her									
21	official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of									
22	Consumer Affairs.									
23	2. On or about August 1, 2003, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered									
24	Nurse License Number 623149 to Juliane Laura Collett, also known as Juliane Laura Guerrant									
25	(Respondent). The Registered Nurse License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to									
26	the charges brought in this Accusation and will expire on September 30, 2012, unless renewed.									
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JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.
- 4. Section 2750 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.
- 5. Section 2764 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license. Under section 2811, subdivision (b), of the Code, the Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.
- 6. Section 118, subdivision (b), of the Code provides that the suspension, expiration, surrender, or cancellation of a license shall not deprive a Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- 7. Section 2761, subdivision (a), of the Code states provides that the Board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse for unprofessional conduct.
 - 8. Section 2762 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

"In addition to other acts constituting unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter [the Nursing Practice Act], it is unprofessional conduct for a person licensed under this chapter to do any of the following:

"(b) Use any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code, or any dangerous drug or dangerous device as defined in Section 4022, or alcoholic beverages, to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to

himself or herself, any other person, or the public or to the extent that such use impairs his or her ability to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by his or her license.

"(c) Be convicted of a criminal offense involving the prescription, consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances described in subdivisions (a) and (b) of this section, or the possession of, or falsification of a record pertaining to, the substances described in subdivision (a) of this section, in which event the record of the conviction is conclusive evidence thereof."

COST RECOVERY

9. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

FACTS

- 10. Respondent abused and was dependent on alcoholic beverages, on and off, for many years, beginning in or around the 1990s, and continuing until at least on or about February 15, 2009. Respondent was hired as a registered nurse in the operating room of Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC), a Santa Clara County hospital in an unincorporated area of San Jose, California, on or about September 22, 2003. Respondent's alcohol abuse led to frequent unauthorized absences, excessive sick leave taken around holidays and weekends, and unavailability while on call at SCVMC. Respondent took two leaves of absence to undergo treatment for alcohol dependency: (1) from on or about April 7, 2008, through on or about May 21, 2008; and (2) from on or about February 16, 2009, through on or about March 19, 2009.
- 11. On or about October 2, 2009, in the criminal case *People v. Juliane Laura Collett*,
 Santa Clara County Superior Court Case No. FF928534, Respondent was convicted, by a plea of
 no contest, of violating Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (b)—Driving with a Blood
 Alcohol Level of .08 Percent or Higher, a misdemeanor. The offense occurred in Morgan Hill on
 or about December 13, 2008, when Respondent drove a car while she had a blood alcohol content
 of approximately .12 percent. Respondent was stopped by Morgan Hill police after an officer

noticed that Respondent was driving so slowly (8-10 miles per hour in area where the speed limit was 40 miles per hour) that she was impeding the flow of traffic.

- 12. On or about March 18, 2011, Respondent was arrested by Campbell police for the following violations: Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivisions (a) and (b) (Driving with a Blood Alcohol Content of .08 Percent or Greater); Vehicle Code section 20002, subdivision (a) (Noninjury Hit and Run Collision); and Vehicle Code section 23154 (Violation of Probation for Driving Under the Influence). The circumstances of the arrest were as follows:
- (a) Respondent rear-ended a vehicle with her car at the intersection of West Hamilton Avenue and San Tomas Expressway in Campbell, and immediately drove off.
- (b) She continued to drive erratically until she pulled into the parking lot of 262 East Hamilton Avenue, approximately one mile from the scene of the accident.
- (c) When police arrived on the scene, Respondent was confused as to her location (she thought she was parked at her home, which was more than a mile away at Southwest Expressway in San Jose), and she exhibited the following symptoms of alcohol intoxication: alcoholic odor on her breath; thick, slurred speech, blood-shot watery eyes, and an unsteady gait.
- (d) Respondent refused to submit to any Standardized Field Sobriety Tests and told the arresting officer "I will always remember your name. And I will never save your life."
- (e) Respondent did submit to a Preliminary Alcohol Screening Test (PAS), but could not blow into the PAS to provide a full sample. Her manually captured partial blood alcohol content was measured at .293 percent.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct: Use of Alcoholic Beverages in Dangerous Manner)

13. Respondent has subjected her registered nurse license to discipline under Code sections 2761, subdivision (a), and 2762, subdivision (b), because she engaged in unprofessional conduct by using alcoholic beverages in a dangerous manner, or to an extent her ability to safely practice nursing was impaired. The circumstances are described above in paragraphs 10-12.

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SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct: Conviction of Offense Related to Alcohol Consumption)

14. Respondent has subjected her registered nurse license to discipline under Code sections 2761, subdivision (a), and 2762, subdivision (c), because she engaged in unprofessional conduct by being convicted of an offense involving the consumption of alcoholic beverages. The circumstances are described above in paragraph 11.

DISCIPLINE CONSIDERATIONS

15. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed, Complainant alleges that Respondent's employer, SCVMC, a hospital owned and operated by Santa Clara County, suspended Respondent on three separate occasions. These disciplinary actions are described more fully below.

First Suspension

- 16. On or around May 20, 2009, SCVMC issued Respondent "Notice of Final Disciplinary Action—One (1) Work Week Suspension." This disciplinary case began with a charging letter to Respondent dated November 26, 2008, recommending a one-week suspension. Respondent appealed and a Skelly hearing was held on December 16, 2008, after which Respondent withdrew under a settlement with SCVMC. Under the terms of the settlement, Respondent was suspended from work for one week, from June 1, 2009, through June 7, 2009.
- 17. The basis for this discipline included excessive absenteeism and performance problems. In the summer of 2008, approximately six weeks after returning to work from a month-long medical leave of absence for alcohol dependency, Respondent reverted to prior patterns of excessive sick leave around holidays and weekends, including calling in sick on Friday, August 29, 2008, and Tuesday September 2, 2008 (both days surrounding the Labor Day weekend and holiday). When Respondent returned to work on Wednesday, September 3, 2008, she exhibited the following performance problems:

¹ Respondent was working at SCVMC on a half-time basis during the suspensions; therefore, a regular work-week for her consisted of 20 hours.

- (a) Respondent failed to immediately report to the desk or check her assignment when she clocked in at 9:00 a.m. An assistant nurse manager found Respondent at 9:10 a.m. at the back desk instead of at Respondent's assigned work area. Meanwhile, another scrub nurse was waiting for Respondent to relieve her.
- (b) Respondent failed to follow proper sterile techniques for her first surgical patient. Respondent moved between two instrument set-ups, causing cross contamination of the sterile set-up. Then, after being at work for less than an hour, Respondent took an unauthorized break and inappropriately left cleaning and preparing for the next case to a coworker.
- (c) For her second and third surgical patients, Respondent failed to timely provide the necessary instruments or supplies to the surgeon when asked. She also dropped instruments or supplies on the floor. The nurse assigned to work with Respondent made a written complaint that working with Respondent made her fear for her patient safety.
- (d) When the nurse manager went to Respondent's room to look for lost equipment,
 Respondent was argumentative and was moving and speaking in a spastic manner. In addition,
 Respondent committed breeches of practice such as holding the telephone to her ear with a towel
 and taking her gloves off before her gown.
- (e) The next day, the Sterile Processing Department complained, with photographic documentation, of the inappropriate condition of the return of instrument sets from Respondent's cases. Dirty instruments were placed with clean instruments and heavy instruments were placed on top of delicate instruments.

Second Suspension

18. On or around October 5, 2009, SCVMC issued Respondent a notice entitled "Final Disciplinary Action--One (1) Work Week Suspension (20 hours)." This disciplinary case began with a charging letter to Respondent dated September 16, 2009, recommending a one-week suspension. Respondent appealed and a Skelly hearing was held on September 29, 2009. The recommended discipline was upheld and Respondent was suspended from work for one week, from October 12, 2009, through October 18, 2009.

19. The basis for this discipline was a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy violation committed by Respondent on or about February 15, 2009. Respondent disclosed protected health information about a former patient within earshot of a person not involved in the patient's care when she repeatedly and frantically questioned a resident physician about the patient's December 2008 surgery by using a SCVMC speakerphone and by also locating and questioning the resident in the public waiting area of Stanford University Hospital. Respondent stated that she acted at the urging of her boyfriend, a SCVMC nurse anesthetist who was concerned that he would be blamed for committing errors in the procedure.

Third Suspension

- 20. On or about November 4, 2009, SCVMC issued Respondent a noticed entitled "Hearing Officer's Decision--One (1) Work Week Suspension (20 hours)." This disciplinary case began with a charging letter to Respondent dated October 13, 2009, recommending a one-week suspension. Respondent appealed and a Skelly hearing was held on October 30, 2009. The recommended discipline was upheld and Respondent was suspended from work for one week, from November 16, 2009, through November 22, 2009.
- 21. The basis for this discipline was Respondent's excessive calling in sick from on or around January 6, 2009, through on or around September 25, 2009. In addition, Respondent received paid educational leave to attend seminars on or around July 11, 2009, and August 18, 2009, but failed to attend the seminars and failed to notify the hospital of her non-attendance.

PRAYER

THEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters alleged in this Accusation, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 623149, issued to Juliane Laura Collett, also known as Juliane Laura Guerrant;
- 2. Ordering Juliane Laura Collett, also known as Juliane Laura Guerrant, to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and

1	3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.									
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